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Trump impeached again

Brendan Smialowski / AFP via Getty Images

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi readies to sign the article of impeachment after a bipartisan vote in the House of Representatives on Wednesday.

ANALYSIS: McConnell's signal to the GOP could open floodgates against president

By David Catanese
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON – Sen. Mitch McConnell's openness to convicting Donald Trump in a U.S. Senate impeachment trial is a seismic signal to his caucus that could prod other Republicans to break with the president in the coming days and weeks.

While McConnell has remained largely silent since last week's riot of the U.S. Capitol, those close to him have anonymously conveyed through media reports that the outgoing Majority Leader is ready to wash his hands of Trump and that he sees the impeachment process as a ready-made solvent.

Jim Kessler, a former policy aide to incoming Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, said McConnell's smoke-signal gives other Senate Republicans permission to abandon Trump.

"Whether they take that permission, I don't know," said Kessler. "But between both McConnell and Rep. Liz Cheney, this can no longer be seen as a partisan endeavor. That just changes this dramatically."

A Democratic-led U.S. House voted to impeach Trump for the second time in 13 months on Wednesday, charging the president with "inciting an insurrection" after a mob of Trump supporters stormed the nation's Capitol last week, vandalized the building and sparked a secu-

Senate continues on A7

Alex Brandon / Associated Press

National Guard troops relax in the Capitol Visitor Center, where they were brought in to reinforce security.

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'DANGEROUS': 10 in GOP and all Texas Dems favor House vote on insurrection

By Benjamin Wermund
WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON – Democrats declared President Donald Trump an "insurrectionist" and "aspiring tyrant" as the U.S. House of Representatives on Wednesday made him the first president to be impeached twice.

Every Texas Democrat supported impeachment as expected. Even a few Texas Republicans said Trump's conduct may well be impeachable, though they didn't support the effort.

Texans offered some of the harshest condemnation of the president, who is accused of provoking the riot by continuing to deny that he lost the election, and who told his supporters to "fight much harder" at a rally outside the Capitol as members prepared to certify his loss to President-elect Joe Biden. Five people were killed as a pro-Trump mob stormed the building.

"Donald Trump is the most dangerous man to ever occupy the Oval Office," said U.S. Rep. Joaquin Castro of San Antonio, who will serve on the team

Texas Dems continues on A7

HPD officer on leave over role in Capitol riot

By Nicole Hensley
STAFF WRITER

An 18-year veteran of the Houston Police Department was relieved of duty Wednesday and could face federal charges for participating in the Capitol takeover, Chief Art Acevedo said.

The officer, Tam Pham, was placed on administrative leave

Pham

Wednesday and is scheduled for a disciplinary hearing Friday with the chief – though Acevedo expressed doubt that the officer will attend. He is expected to resign on Thursday, a police union leader said.

The Westside patrol officer was off duty at the time and seen wearing a mask and holding a Trump flag at the Capitol, Acevedo said. When reached by phone, Pham expressed exasperated regret about attending the riots and contends he was there to observe.

"I shouldn't have done it," Pham told the Houston Chronicle. "I was there to take pictures."

Details of what Pham did inside the Capitol were not known. He declined to confirm or deny Acevedo's accusation that he entered the building.

"A lot of stuff happened that day," Pham continued. "I wasn't in the right mind."

The announcement that

Officer continues on A8

For Houston, it's Harden to say goodbye

By David Barron
STAFF WRITER

The calendar may have flipped to 2021, but a 12-month streak of unceasing tumult for Houston's sports teams and fans took another swerve Wednesday with the trade of Rockets superstar James Harden to the Brooklyn Nets.

Harden, who lobbied for weeks to leave the franchise that helped him vault from well-regarded substitute to one of the highest-profile players in the NBA, will join former Oklahoma City teammate Kevin Durant and Kyrie Irving in Brooklyn as part of a four-team deal involving the Rockets, Nets, Indiana Pacers and Cleveland Cavaliers.

Coming to Houston will be Pacers guard Victor Oladipo, Cavaliers guard Dante Exum and Nets forward Rodions Kurucs. The Rockets also will receive four

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More in Sports

Details of blockbuster trade, commentary. **Page C1**

Jon Shapley / Staff photographer

After eight years as the face of the Rockets, James Harden was traded to the Brooklyn Nets on Wednesday.

Sunnyside landfill OK'd for solar farm

By Emily Foxhall
STAFF WRITER

Carolyn Evans-Shabazz remembers going as a girl with her dad from their home in Third Ward to the city-owned dump in Sunnyside, smelling it as they neared.

Houston's decision to put the landfill in a historically Black community is seen as one of a number of examples in the region of environmental racism, a practice of pursuing and enacting policies that disproportionally affect people of color.

Evans-Shabazz saw it then as just how things were. With time, she questioned: "Why is it here?"

On Wednesday, Evans-Shabazz joined her fellow City Council members in trying to bring positive change to the site of the landfill, which closed decades ago. The council vot-

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